

Appl. No. 10/520,888  
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

**1. (Currently Amended)** A silver halide color photographic material comprising a substrate, having thereon a yellow color image forming layer, a magenta color image forming layer and a cyan color image forming layer, all of which incorporate photosensitive silver halide grains, wherein, when the silver halide color photographic material is exposed with a laser light at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds per one pixel, and then is subjected to photographic processing to obtain a color image, the difference of VE values ( $\Delta VE$ ) of the color image, between a maximum VE value and a minimum VE value, is between ~~0.0-0.2~~ greater than 0.08 and 0.2, in which VE is an effective gradation region of each color image forming layer in the obtained color image.

**2. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 1, wherein at least one color image forming layer comprises a four equivalent coupler.

Appl. No. 10/520,888  
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

**3. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 1, wherein at least one color image-forming layer comprises the silver halide grains containing a metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table.

**4. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 2, wherein at least one color image forming layer comprises the silver halide grains containing a metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table.

**5. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 3, wherein the metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table is contained in the silver halide grains as a metal complex having at least one ligand of nitrosyl or imidazole.

**6. (Original)** The silver halide color photographic material of claim 4, wherein the metal of the 8th to 10th groups in the periodic table is contained in the silver halide grains as a metal complex having at least one ligand of nitrosyl or imidazole.

Appl. No. 10/520,888  
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

7. (Original) An image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 1, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds per pixel, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

8. (Original) The image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 2, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

9. (Original) The image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 3, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

10. (Original) The image forming method comprising the steps of:

a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 4, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b)

Appl. No. 10/520,888  
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**11. (Original)** The image forming method comprising the steps of: a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 5, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  to seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**12. (Original)** The image forming method comprising the steps of: a) exposing the silver halide color photographic material of claim 6, at an exposure time of  $10^{-10}$  to  $10^{-3}$  seconds, and b) conducting color photographic processing on the exposed photographic material.

**13. (New)** The silver halide photographic material of claim 1 wherein the difference in VE values ( $\Delta$ VE) is between 0.09 and 0.2.